

a number of bills we think should be completed prior to that time.

APPOINTMENTS BY THE VICE PRESIDENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276h-276k, as amended, appoints the following Senators as members of the Senate delegation to the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group during the 2d session of the 104th Congress, to be held in southeast Alaska May 10-14, 1996:

The Senator from Rhode Island [Mr. CHAFEE]; the Senator from Utah [Mr. HATCH]; the Senator from Arkansas [Mr. PRYOR]; the Senator from South Dakota [Mr. PRESSLER]; the Senator from Iowa [Mr. GRASSLEY]; the Senator from Washington [Mr. GORTON]; the Senator from Vermont [Mr. JEFFORDS]; the Senator from Florida [Mr. MACK]; the Senator from Montana [Mr. BURNS]; the Senator from Utah [Mr. BENNETT]; the Senator from Oklahoma [Mr. INHOFE]; the Senator from Ohio [Mr. DEWINE], and the Senator from Minnesota [Mr. GRAMS].

The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276h-276k, as amended, appoints the following Senators as members of the Senate delegation to the Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group during the 2d session of the 104th Congress to be held in Mexico May 3-5, 1996:

The Senator from Alaska [Mr. MURKOWSKI]; the Senator from Colorado [Mr. BROWN]; and the Senator from Georgia [Mr. COVERDELL].

Mr. DOLE. I will be happy to yield the floor or yield to the Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. PRYOR. I thank the Chair. I thank the distinguished majority leader for yielding.

PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. PRYOR. Once again I should have been here a few moments ago because it was my understanding that one of my colleagues, and perhaps even the majority leader himself, made some reference to the appointment of judges by President Clinton.

Mr. DOLE. Not today.

Mr. PRYOR. I did not hear the majority leader.

Mr. DOLE. I did not make any reference today to the appointment of judges, but I did make a reference to the fact that judges in the second and ninth circuits have been reaching for some way to find a constitutional right to die, and I thought that should be decided by the legislative branch.

Mr. PRYOR. I see. Notwithstanding the majority leader's assurances that he has not talked about President Clinton's appointments to the bench, Mr. President, I think the record should fairly reflect what the facts are about this. I really appreciate the majority leader yielding to me for a moment.

The appointments of President Clinton's judges—in fact, almost two-thirds of President Clinton's judicial appoint-

ments—have received the American Bar Association's highest rating: "Well qualified," the highest percentage of any of his three predecessors.

Second, U.S. News and World Report is saying with regard to President Clinton's appointments to the bench, and I quote, "Centrism is carrying the day."

Third, even Senator HATCH, our colleague and friend from Utah, our distinguished chairman of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, has as recently as August 3, 1995, Mr. President, stated at a confirmation hearing, and I quote:

I wish to compliment the administration for the type of people they are sending to us. It is making our job much easier.

That is a direct quote from the distinguished chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Senator Orrin HATCH of Utah. Only two more comments, because I know the distinguished majority leader may be needing to get on.

Only 3—only 3—of the 185 judges in the lower Federal court appointed by President Clinton have been even the subject of contested votes. They did not even have a vote—only three have been subjected to a contested vote in the Judiciary Committee or in this Chamber. I think this is a remarkable record.

Finally, Mr. President, let me say that the Senate has approved unanimously with the consent of all Republicans 182 of 185 lower court Federal judges President Clinton has nominated and were ultimately approved for the bench.

So I think from time to time it is necessary for us to put the facts out in the RECORD, and I am very, very grateful for the understanding and the opportunity the majority leader has given me to make this record.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I appreciate that. I would only say the fact that they got the highest rating by the American Bar Association worries me even more. It is nothing but a liberal advocacy group, and that should indicate what kind of judges are being given these very high ratings. The more liberal you are, the higher rating you get from the American Bar Association.

It is customary, it has been in Democratic and Republican administrations, to honor a President's nominees unless there was some reason—sometimes you do not know until after they have, in this case, been on the bench and made a few rulings to see precisely which direction they can go, but we will be happy to accommodate the Senator from Arkansas if he would like to have all these contested in the future. I do not know how many judicial nominees are on the calendar now.

So I would just say, obviously, the President has a right to appoint the judges that he believes more or less follow his philosophy and others would have the right to appoint those who follow their philosophy. That debate will probably continue.

LEGISLATIVE SCHEDULE

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, it is also my hope that we can complete action on the Billy Dale matter on Tuesday, and then also Amtrak authorization which is, as I understand, not particularly controversial, and the firefighters discrimination bill, S. 849. We hope we might be able to reach a time agreement on the firefighters discrimination bill. I think it has broad bipartisan support. I know the Senator from Vermont [Mr. JEFFORDS] has an amendment; the Senator from Massachusetts [Mr. KENNEDY] has an amendment. There are three or four amendments on each side. Some will be adopted, some will be defeated. But I would like to complete action on that bill early next week so that we can move on to other matters before the week is out.

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, if the majority leader will answer a question, I would appreciate it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. DOLE. I will be happy to yield to the Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. PRYOR. I am wondering—I guess we are calling the compensation measure, the Travelgate issue, Billy Dale—which is fine. I think we will just call it the Billy Dale legislation.

Mr. DOLE. I do not have a number.

Mr. PRYOR. I wonder if the majority leader might be favorably disposed to any kind of amendment to that which might set up a fund to ultimately compensate those people regarding the Whitewater matter who may have been called here or called to Little Rock or called to some grand jury, to help them be compensated for their legal fees, if they were not a target of the investigation, not a subject of the investigation, and are found to be destitute and cannot pay their legal bills. I wonder if the majority leader would look kindly on such an amendment.

Mr. DOLE. I would certainly look kindly on having the Senate Judiciary Committee considering that. I think Senator HATCH would be very receptive.

My view is, if someone who is not a target is not only inconvenienced but must go out and hire counsel, there should be some recompense. I do not care whether it is Whitewater or whatever it may be.

So I would certainly, if I could work with the Senator from Arkansas and encourage the Senator from Utah, Senator HATCH, to immediately go to work on it, perhaps we can work out something.

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I thank the distinguished majority leader.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. DOLE. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I now ask the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:02 p.m., adjourned until Friday, May 3, 1996, at 10 a.m.